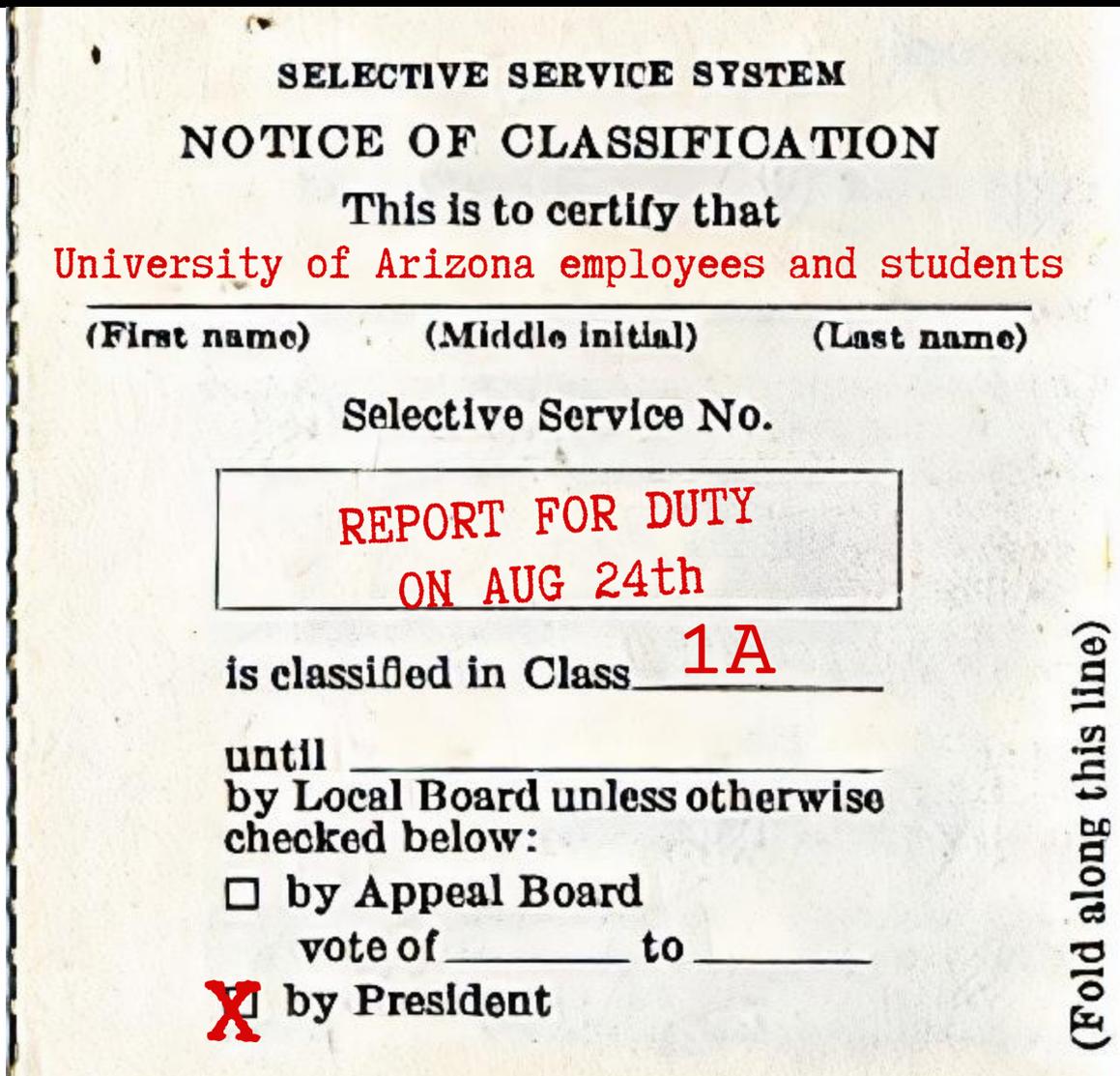


# CAJUA ACTION REPORT

*The official newsletter of the Coalition for Academic Justice at the  
University of Arizona*

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Draft card meme created by the CAJUA media team following UA President Robert Robbins' announcement on July 23, that "50 percent of all classes will have some in-person component." The meme was shared widely on our social media platforms.

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## GFFAC (AD HOC) COMMITTEE UPDATE

WRITTEN BY CAJUA STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The General Faculty Financial Advisory (ad hoc) Committee continued to meet with the UA senior leadership team and other working groups.

Representatives of the CAJUA on the ad hoc committee have been frustrated by procedural hurdles and security restrictions that are slowing the committee's ability to access granular data to better understand the true scope of the financial crisis facing the university. There was progress, however, in obtaining some of that data in conversations with other working groups. CAJUA representatives are not optimistic at this time about the administration's willingness to change course.

The GFFAC has a deadline of August 3, to prepare and present a report at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Because of this looming deadline, the CAJUA steering committee will have a strategy meeting to discuss the ad hoc committee on either Monday, July 27 or 28. CAJUA members will be invited to join in this meeting. Look for an announcement in the CAJUA listserv.

# Action Group Updates

## Health and Reentry Action Group

A busy week for the Health & Re-entry Action Group culminated in the issuing of an open letter, stating CAJUA's response to the University's re-entry plan. The letter was finalized after a Special General Meeting on the afternoon of Monday, July 20.

The committee wishes to thank all of those who took time to attend the meeting and offer their input. Following the meeting, H & R action group members Elizabeth Jaeger, Casey Richardson, Laurie Soloff and Cheryl Knott generated the draft that was subsequently submitted to CAJUA membership for approval.

In producing the open letter, the H & R group sought to clearly express general, overarching re-entry concerns. Simultaneously, we aimed for a succinct document with concrete proposals that would stand in contrast to the SLT's muddled and often vacuous rhetoric on the topic of re-entry.

As the week progressed, the letter was approved by a strong majority of the CAJUA members who voted on it. At newsletter press time, it had gained over 600 signatures (you can add yours here: <https://forms.gle/cDkSHvbF9SKXCSde9>).

We encourage CAJUA members to share the letter with colleagues, with members of the Tucson community, and indeed with anyone who shares our concerns over the University's proposed re-entry plan.

## (Continued Health and Reentry)

In the coming week, the H & R action group plans to seek endorsement of the letter from local community leaders, community organizations, and public health authorities. On a final note, the Health & Re-entry Action Group wants to emphasize that the CAJUA's public statements around the subject of re-entry will not end with this week's letter.

In the coming weeks, we intend to issue further letters to address the concerns of specific constituencies within CAJUA and the UA community.

## Membership & Outreach Action Group

In early July, a majority of polled CAJUA members opted to create a Slack workspace for our coalition. The new Slack workspace will allow more direct communication among action groups and members, and it will greatly reduce the quantity of email from Google Groups.

Many thanks go to Shufang Su for setting up the workspace with channels corresponding to current action groups. Along with Shufang, there is a small group of volunteers who will serve as a Tech Team – to support members who are new to Slack and to maintain a user-friendly experience overall.

By the way, if you are Slack-savvy (and have the time and energy!), let us know if you'd like to help on the Tech Team.

# **Action Group Updates (continued)**

## **Membership & Outreach Action Group (continued)**

When our Slack workspace goes “live,” CAJUA members will automatically join with their selected action groups and these channels: General, Announcements, and AskTechTeam.

Members may add themselves to other public action groups, opt out of groups, and customize notifications as they wish. The current plan is to keep Google Groups, too.

Why have both? The reasoning is that Google Groups is the public voice of the action groups, a place to broadcast announcements to the large group.

Slack, instead, is best for an internal processing of ideas that are much easier to follow as conversations linked in topical threads rather than as a series of emails. So, all this is to say: we are working to prepare a successful transition to our new Slack workspace!

## **Graduate & Professional Student Action Group**

The CAJUA Graduate and Professional Student action group had its first meeting on July 17th.

Since then, we have begun to identify issues that graduate and professional students face as a result of the university re-entry process.

As part of this effort, we released a short, informal survey asking graduate and professional students to share some basic information with us, such as: the modalities of graduate/professional student courses in their departments.

The survey also asked whether or not they have received offer letters for funding and what those offers entailed, the modalities of undergraduate courses being taught in their departments, whether their departments had taken a position on graduate/professional students choosing whether or not to return to the classroom, and whether graduate/professional students felt pressure to return in person.

Graduate & Professional Student Action Group (continued)

Many students expressed that graduate course modalities have not been discussed as much as undergraduate modalities.

Additionally, most relayed that they had not yet received their employment assignments, with some not yet having signed their funding contract.

Finally, there was a clear trend indicating that many graduate and professional students felt pressure to return to the classroom for the sake of their employment/funding.

Encouragingly, we saw evidence of some departments taking positive steps which inspired confidence in their students. Our findings showed that graduate and professional students who described feeling the most secure about their position in the Fall came from departments where leadership and general faculty:

- Communicated with their graduate students regularly
- Took steps towards online modalities and/or extended accommodations to graduate and professional students to easily shift online
- Took a clear and public stance on re-entry/

We will continue working on advocating with graduate students to ensure their concerns are represented and addressed during reentry.

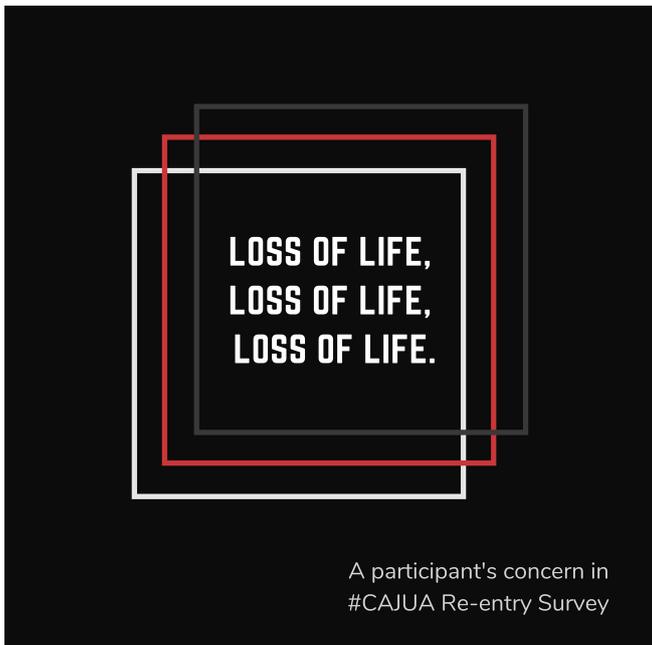
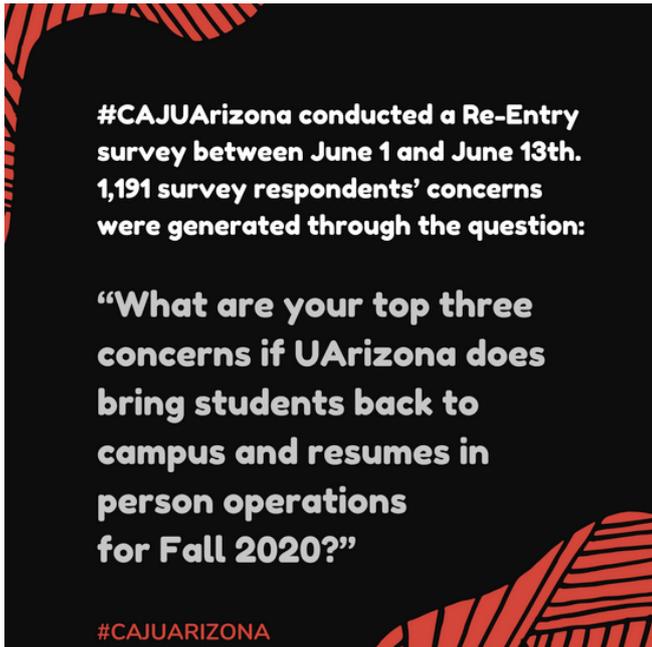
If you or someone you know is a graduate or professional student and would be interested in joining our team, please contact us at [cajuastudents@gmail.com](mailto:cajuastudents@gmail.com)!



## Action Group Updates (continued)

### Media Relations Action Group

The media action group produced several social media campaigns this week, focusing on the many critical issues that we face. One campaign highlighted problems with and concerns about the UA's re-entry plan. Here are a few slides from that set of memes.



### Unionization Action Group

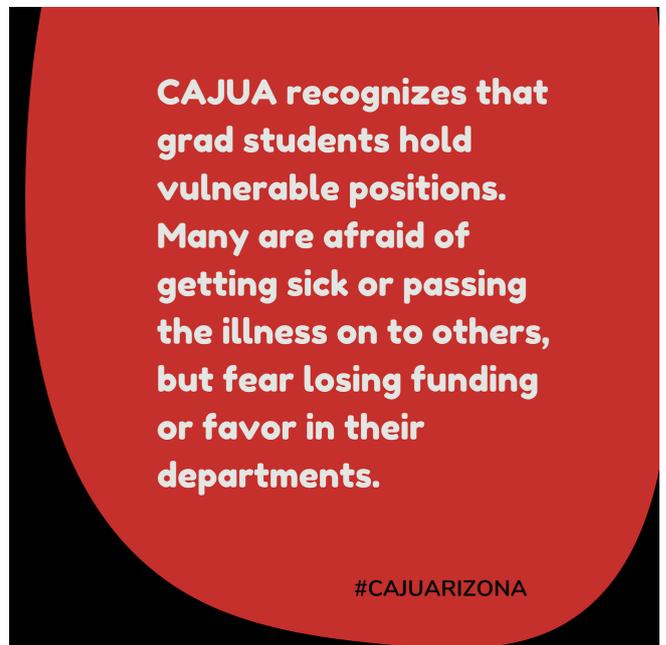
The Unionization action group has completed its information gathering stage, in which it met with reps and organizers from the Communication Workers of America,

United Campus Workers, American Federation of Teachers, and the National Education Association, as well as colleagues in higher education in Arizona including ASU, NAU, and Maricopa Community Colleges.

They have been sharing what they have learned through presentations and coming-soon FAQs, and will host a Town Hall on unionization THIS COMING Wednesday, the 29th of July at 6 p.m.

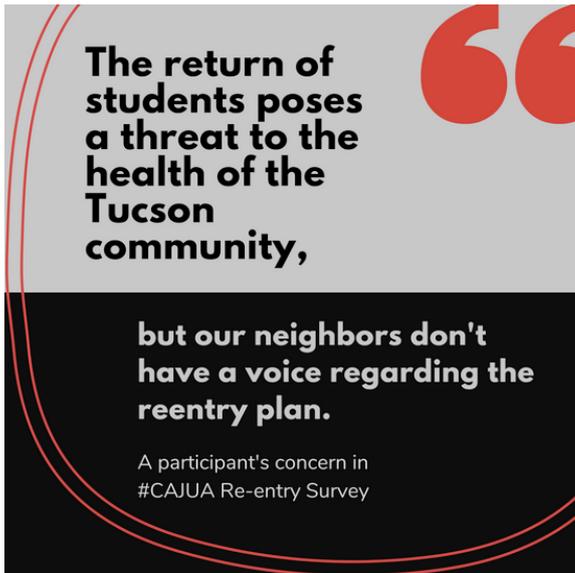
All CAJUA members are invited! Please email Ryan Kashanipour <rykash@gmail.com> or Brian Silverstein <silversteinbrian@gmail.com> for the link.

The Unionization action group plans to bring proposed next steps to CAJUA membership this Friday, the 31st of July.



Memes Courtesy: CAJUA Media Relations Action Group

Another set of memes likened President Robbins' call for students, faculty and staff to return to campus on August 24, to getting drafted to war. It might seem dramatic, but that is how some faculty, staff and students are feeling these days. To see more of our memes, check out our social media platforms. In addition to work on social media, members of the team sent out press releases and answered media inquiries from local, state and national news outlets. (continued on page 5)



Meme Courtesy: CAJUA Media Relations Action Group

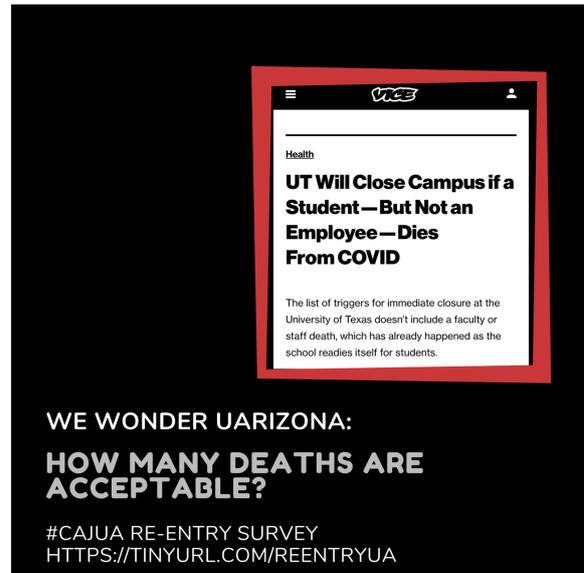
In her program “30 minutes,” on July 26, host Amanda Shaugher interviewed Celeste González de Bustamante about the CAJUA. You can find the podcast on KXCI.org. Look for upcoming reports on Arizona Public Media, in the Chronicle of Higher Education, and, China Global Television Network (Washington, D.C.).

Finally, the media team also worked to share across our social media platforms several activities happening within the CAJUA, including union meetings.

## List of CAJUA Action Groups

- Budget & Finance
- Career, Contingent, and Adjunct Faculty
- Caregiving *New group!*
- Graduate and Professional Students
- Layoffs & Non-Renewals
- Media Relations
- Membership & Outreach
- Re-Entry, Safety, and Public Health
- Social Justice
- Staff
- Unionization

If you would like to get in touch with any of these action groups, please send an e-mail to [cajua@protonmail.com](mailto:cajua@protonmail.com)



Meme Courtesy: CAJUA Media Relations Action Group

## Important Dates Coming Up!

- **Tuesday, July 28**, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., APAC/CSC meeting (Appointed Professionals Advisory Council / Classified Staff Council)
- **Friday, July 31**, CAJUA General Meeting This is the last scheduled general meeting before Robbins’s target date to commence furlough/pay cut plan. (Time: TBA)
- **Monday, August 3**, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Faculty Senate Meeting (no agenda yet)
- **Wednesday, August 5**, SPBAC Meeting
- **Monday, August 10**, Pres. Robbins’s intended start of furlough / pay cut plan
- **Friday August, 14**, CAJUA General Meeting
- **Thursday, August 20**, ABOR meeting (no agenda yet)
- **Monday, August 24**, First day of fall semester

## Check us out on social media!!!

[Facebook: CAJUArizona](#)

[Twitter @CAJUArizona](#)

[Instagram: @cajuarizona](#)

[YouTube: Coalition for Academic Justice](#)

This newsletter was prepared and edited by Adi Adiredja, Angela Corsa, Celeste González de Bustamante, and Jeannine Relly.

